

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

VOL. VIII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 5TH, 1881

NUMBER 1

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—25, Rua do Marquês d'Amatens
HON. HENRY W. HILLIARD,
Minister.
BRITISH LEGATION.—No. 7, Rua de Lefo, Laranjeiras.
FRANCIS CLARE FORD,
Minister.
AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 30, Rua do
Visconde de Iguatema. THOMAS ADAMSON,
Consul General.
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 30, Rua de
S. José. GEORGE THORNE RICKETTS,
Consul General.

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FREDERICK YOUNG, M. A.,
Residence.—Ladeira do Sô, Laranjeiras. Chaplain.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—No. 15, Travessa da Barreira.
Services in Portuguese at 11 o'clock, a. m., and 7 o'clock,
p. m., every Sunday; and at 7 o'clock, p. m., every
Thursday. JAMES T. HOUSTON,
Pastor.
SAILORS MISSION.—163, Rua da Saúde; 3rd floor. Ser-
vices at 2 p. m. every Sunday. FRANCIS CURRAN,
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**PHILADELPHIA — 1876
EXPOSITION MEDAL
MARC FERREZ'S
BRAZILIAN PHOTOGRAPHS**

M. Ferrez was photographer to the Geological Survey of
Brazil and received a medal at Philadelphia for the views
taken while in that service.

Brazilian scenery a specialty
88 RUA DE S. JOSÉ

W. R. CASSELS & CO.
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Agents
in the principal towns of the surrounding provinces.

The introduction of goods of American manufacture into this
market for competition with those of European origin, has been
for many years a specialty of their business, and references to
the various manufacturers they represent—which are kindly
permitted—will demonstrate the unequalled facilities they pos-
sess and have successfully employed for this purpose.
Further agencies, suitable of their lines of business, hand-
saw, machinery, domestic goods, specialties, etc., etc., are
respectfully solicited, a cash basis being readily conceded
whenever special and exclusive conditions are tendered by
manufacturers.

THE YEAR 1880.

The year just closed has been character-
ized by but few events of unusual public
importance. The first day of the year was
marked by the enforcement of an unjust
and vexatious tax, which excited riotous op-
position on the part of people. The result
was a collision between an unarmed mob
and a force of soldiers in which the former
were fired upon and three persons were
killed. The impotence and unpopularity
of the Sinimbá ministry finally led to its
retirement in March and the formation of
a new liberal ministry under the premier-
ship of Counselor Saraiva.

Although the General Assembly has been
in session since the 15th of April very little
has been accomplished in the way of needed
legislation. The electoral reform project
of the Saraiva ministry was presented to the
Chamber of Deputies soon after its inaugu-
ration in April and was passed by that
house, with some slight modifications, on
the 25th of June. It then went to the
Senate where it remained until the 29th
ult. when it was finally passed with am-
endments. It now goes back to the Chamber
for concurrence. Aside from the full en-
franchisement of freedmen, non-catholics
and naturalized citizens, and the adoption
of district representation in the Chamber,
the bill contains little of practical value to
the country.

As is customary the budget estimates and
appropriations were made the subject of
endless discussions and financial expedients.
After various changes they were finally passed
with an apparent surplus, but with an actual
deficit of over 12,000 contos—a deficit
which has since been swelled to over 30,000
contos. Among the extraordinary appro-
priations has been one of 9,000,000\$ for
the army and navy.

The most important feature of the legis-
lative session now coming to an end has
been the anti-slavery agitation led by Deputy
Joãoquim Nabuco. Although nothing definite
has been gained in the line of anti-slavery
legislation, a great advance has been made
in the organization of a small, well-disciplined
abolition party in the Chamber, and of a
large and vigorous party outside. A Brazil-
ian anti-slavery society was organized on
the 28th of September and the anti-slavery
propaganda has been carried on vigorously
throughout the whole empire ever since.
The movement has created wide-spread
alarm among planters who are now actively
engaged in organizing a counter movement.
The electoral reform bill being finally
adopted, it is evident that the question of
emancipation will be brought before the
General Assembly in some definite shape
during the present year, when it is highly
probable that there will be either a com-
promise, or a brief term will be adopted.
The anti-slavery pressure has become too
strong to admit of further delays.

The domestic affairs of the country have
not been characterized by any great event.
There have been several election conflicts in
which many lives have been lost, and there
have been some acts of desperate lawlessness.
The most significant part of the year's history,
however, has been the increase of lotteries

and the declining prosperity of the people as
indicated by the great difficulties encoun-
tered in making collections. The unwise
credit system in vogue in Brazil permits the
contraction of large debts on the part of
dealers and consumers, and the natural ten-
dency is rather to increase than to diminish
them. In times of prosperity these debts
are usually met according to the specified
terms, but in times of depression the very
reverse of this is true. During the past year
there has been a general complaint that
there was no money throughout the prov-
inces and that collections were almost
impossible.

At the opening of the year a new and
increased tariff went into operation. To
anticipate the increased duties there was an
excessive importation of goods and the mar-
ket became overstocked. This was particu-
larly the case in the dry goods trade, in
which the excessive importation was fol-
lowed by numerous auctions through
which the market became so depressed
that it has not even yet recovered. This
unfavorable state of affairs was intensified
by the epidemic of yellow fever in this city,
during the early part of the year. The present
good health of the city and the favorable
indications of a healthy summer, however,
has greatly improved the outlook for the com-
ing year, and there is accordingly a better
feeling throughout all branches of business.

THE PORT OF CEARÁ.

The following extracts from a private
letter from Col. W. M. Roberts, dated at
Ceará on the 28th of November last, have
been handed to us for publication. Col.
Roberts is a close and judicious observer
and his comments, therefore, on the port
of Ceará, aside from their professional value,
can not fail to be received with keen interest.

"The more I see of this city the better I
like it. It is regularly laid out, after the
manner of the city of Philadelphia; its
streets are of good width, and they are well
paved and kept clean. It has several fine
squares planted with trees, and a very
handsome "Passeio Público," recently
modernized and prettily arranged, elevated
about sixty feet above and commanding a
fine view of the crescent-shaped bay. Twice
a week it is well attended. On the
evenings of Sunday and Thursday the
élite of Ceará gather here and promenade on
the elegant smooth walk in the centre, or
sit on the seats, or on chairs, partaking
refreshments and listening to the music of
an excellent band.

"You know already all about the horrors
of the destructive *sêca* which devastated this
province during the long period of three
years and a half. Only one year has
elapsed since the close of that terrible vis-
itation, yet there are abundant evidences of
returning prosperity. Inasmuch as these
meteorological scourges have only occurred
at long though irregular intervals, it is to be
hoped that many years will pass ere there
may be another return of this great and
truly national evil. It is a pity that such
a fine, productive agricultural region as this
province is, should be subject, even at long
intervals, to such drawbacks as these long-

continued drouths, against the recurrence
of which human efforts can avail nothing.

"It is only possible by human means to
provide some amelioration or mitigation of
the evil when it comes; but to do this
completely, over a large province, is ob-
viously out of the question. Certain limited
districts might be aided by reservoirs, or by
artesian wells; but an extensive system of
reservoirs of sufficient magnitude to be of
material use during two or three consecutive
years of drouth would involve an enormous
expenditure of money, and such an expen-
diture should not be entered upon without
a thorough and most careful examination of
the country and a critical investigation of
the whole subject by competent and experi-
enced persons. Otherwise the government
might find itself in the position of spending
large sums to little purpose.

"The immediate, paramount need of this
province and of its handsome capital city, is
some improvement of its roadstead so that
freight can be loaded and unloaded more
conveniently, at less cost, and in less time;
and so that passengers can be landed and
taken on board vessels in a more modern
fashion. Efficient plans have at different
periods been proposed by eminent and
competent engineers which, if executed,
would produce the desired effect; but as yet
nothing has been done.

"Those who handle the lighters are experi-
enced and expert in conducting that par-
ticular business; but the lightering of large
vessels has to be done under serious disad-
vantages. Even the products brought by the
small coasters to this port must be lightered.
The lighters do not go to the one pier, as a
rule, but they are laid as near to shore as their
draught will permit and then their cargoes
are loaded upon the heads of the carriers
who sometimes stand in water, often liter-
ally, up to their eyes, to receive upon, or
discharge freight from their heads. All these
men are active and handy in the performance
of their peculiar work, but the whole system,
although well conducted, is a century
behind the age.

"The Baturité railway, opened only about
a year ago to its present terminus, is destined
to aid in introducing a better system. Not-
withstanding the almost total cessation of
agriculture in the interior for three years in
succession, its daily increasing business
proves that it will be a success, and that it
will be able, after awhile to reimburse the
government for the money expended in its
construction. Already its receipts are large-
ly more than its expenses—notwithstanding
the disadvantages. A branch railway has
been carried from the main line down to the
beach, and thence along the city front to the
custom house, which stands at the eastern
end of the commercial part of the city. Goods
may now be taken from the custom house
directly into the interior, or delivered at the
custom house, or to the warehouses, directly
from the cars. All this modern arrangement,
owing to the circumstances, is yet in its
infancy; but in due time it will grow to
maturity. The Baturité line, as a main
trunk, will soon have branches and exten-
sions, and thus develop the interior and
greatly augment the commerce of Ceará.

"However large may be the business brought to this city by this railway, or by any number of railways that may centre here, it will of course all be shipped to its destination by vessels doing business at this port; but if subject to a considerable tax, of money and time, for want of proper harbor facilities, its growth will unquestionably be to some extent discouraged; while, on the other hand, with attractive and convenient harbor facilities it will be encouraged and correspondingly increased.

"Nature began a breakwater here, but she did not build it high enough; so that in high spring tides it does not sufficiently break the swell of the sea. At low tide it affords some protection to the lighters which are anchored in a little harbor of their own between the submerged reef and the shore. A portion of the reef at the eastern extremity projects above the level of the sea, even at mid tide, but is covered at the time of the highest tides. The general range of the tide is less than two metres, and from extreme low to extreme high tide $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres. The wind, which blows almost constantly, ranges chiefly between south-east and north-east; it tends to raise the water in this harbor and maintains a current running outward, both in the harbor and along the shore.

"The approach to the harbor of Ceará from the ocean is unexceptionable. A very short distance out from the lighthouse at Point Mocuripe—within a quarter of a mile—there are ten metres (33 feet) depth of water, and it holds that depth to within about one mile of the city, where it shoals to seven metres (22 feet) at half a mile out. The largest vessels can come within less than a mile of the landing place, or shore line, and most vessels can come within less than half a mile. There is a safe depth of five metres (16.4 feet) within one-fourth of a mile from shore, but it is all an open roadstead, exposed to the swell of the sea.

ABOUT CONSULS

There is a prevalent impression in the Anglo-Saxon mind that the Consul is a public servant in the most literal acceptance of the term. This is a mistake. It is believed that this official was created solely and specially to serve as a guide board for befogged travellers, as a good Samaritan to those who have fallen among thieves, as a friend, counselor, private banker, steward and general utility man. This too is a mistake. It is considered that the office was established for the relief of the destitute and for the private use and behoof of all good citizens who may find themselves in "furnin lands" and who are entitled to the protection of the flag which waves from the consular flag staff. This likewise is an error. Many good people always travel with the comfortable conviction hidden away in some little used part of their anatomy that the government places its consular service wholly at their disposal, together with funds and information sufficient to meet all their necessities and a few of their extravagances. Unfortunately this also is a misconception.

No government can be expected to look after all its citizens, in all their outgoings and incomings. It can not be expected to furnish them information on all subjects any more than it can be expected to supply them with brains; neither will it undertake to buy them new clothes, pay their first-class steamship fares, supply them with binoculars, and keep their sheepskin wallets filled with pin money. There are limits to all things, and this is one of them. The government may undertake to champion the wounded dignity of one of its citizens, and to furnish two-year-old commercial information to all who seek it; it may even go to war when one of its exuberant parsons has been cast into a common prison for knocking down a policeman. But in

the line of first-class tickets and postage stamps it certainly can not be held responsible.

People generally never fully appreciate the government and its officials until they go abroad. We have seen men who were content to live quietly at home for years without the least consciousness of the government and its authority except when jury drawings took place and the census man came round. Let them once get abroad, however, and they immediately develop enough patriotism and official connection to swamp a whole army of diplomats and consuls. These are good enough people in their way, and their intentions are generally above all suspicion. The trouble is, they have mistaken their own "position, and that of the consul too.

Now the consul is usually a hard-worked man, and in the service of some governments he is meanly paid. He is expected to attend strictly to business, and to charge a sixpence every time he catches a sea captain winking. He is instructed to look closely after the commercial interests of his country, to see that all dues are paid, to regulate sea captains and adjust sailors, to collect more dues, to write voluminous commercial reports, to draw his salary, and render faithful accounts of all the moneys received in looking after commerce. There is nothing in the consular regulations about turning consulates into baggage rooms and post-offices, there is no injunction upon the consul to supply excursion tickets and furnish postage stamps, there is no specification about keeping open house and entertaining all comers, and there is no instruction that the consul shall interfere in the private affairs of his countrymen who may be either travelling or residing abroad. In this last-mentioned case there exists a very general error. There are many good and otherwise intelligent people who firmly believe that the consul is not only instructed to interfere in their private affairs, but that it is both politic and necessary that he should do so. He must be made familiar with the internal management of their households, of their choice of associates, whether they read the *Times*, how much money they spend and what they spend it for, whether their debts are paid, when and what duties they pay on their imported cigars, and whether they attend church regularly. Now all this is the veriest nonsense; there is not the slightest need of burdening the consul with a single one of these matters. What interest can it be to him, or to the government, what servants you employ, how much you pay your dentist, and whether your table etiquette is of the approved kind? In what respect can he be called upon to meddle in your boarding house troubles, or to concern himself with the places and frequency of your visits? By what authority can he assume the rôle of guardian for a community of grown men and women, and play the part of censor on all their sayings and doings? The whole thing is an error.

That there is a basis for our criticism, we append herewith a brief letter from one of these unhappy officials in response to an unwarranted exaction on the part of a thoughtless countryman. As this official's salary does not exceed \$7,500 a year, with but few perquisites worth mentioning, this vexatious tax upon his postage account is certainly a grievous burden. We trust that our readers will give their thoughtful consideration to this matter, and then advise their friends to trouble the consul with such burdens as little as possible. All these things cost money. In justice to him and his income, there should be a little more consideration exercised in these extra-official requirements. The letter is as follows:

U. S. CONSULATE GENERAL,
Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 6th, 1880.

Mr. — Yours of the 26th ult. has been received but you have neglected to send money to pay the postage on your letters. I hope you will not forget that if the U. S. consuls receive and forward your letters, it is a courtesy—not an official duty—and the U. S. govt. does not pay the postages. I receive the letters of many hundreds of people and too many of them do not think of paying postage, or even to thank me for the trouble I had with their correspondence. In future your letters will be retained unless the postage is paid in advance. You can see by the stamps on this what I have to pay for forwarding these. Be good enough to send the amount to me.

Respectfully yours,
THOMAS ADAMSON,
U. S. Consul General.

N. B.—Four letters enclosed.

A LOCOMOTIVE CHALLENGE.

It will be remembered that a fast locomotive was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works some months ago, which was expected to eclipse the fastest engines of the day. This locomotive was tested on the Bound Brook line between New York and Philadelphia with the most satisfactory results, and was then sold to the Eames Vacuum Brake Company who took it to England for the purpose of exhibiting their brakes on English roads. The competition growing out of this act and the rivalry existing between English and American locomotive builders has finally led to a challenge from Mr. F. W. Eames for a test of speed and power. The following editorial from an English Journal, the *Leeds Times*, of November 6th, followed by the challenge of Mr. Eames, illustrates fully the character of the controversy, and the trial which he proposes to make. At last advice the challenge had not been accepted, although it had excited a very animated discussion among railway men. The following is the editorial from the *Leeds Times*:

The reference made by Mr. J. Kitson, jun., at the dinner of the Leeds Amalgamated Friendly societies last week, of the "tall talk" about the Yankee engine that was to be brought over to this country to beat the English locomotives, has drawn a letter and a challenge from Mr. F. W. Eames, an American gentleman who has introduced a vacuum brake for employment on locomotives, which possesses some excellent qualities for the purpose for which it is intended. Mr. Kitson having stated that English locomotives and the men who make them can compete successfully with anything produced in the world, Mr. Eames says that it is not contemplated to attempt to dispute with English manufacturers their undoubted monopoly of the English type of locomotives, neither is it claimed that American builders have reached the *ne plus ultra* of the art, and that when the American engine has accomplished its mission it will be returned to that country. Mr. Eames offers to back his opinions to the extent of £1,000 "against any locomotive ever built by Mr. Kitson, or ever built in Leeds, or in fact, any locomotive now running on any railway line in England," on certain conditions which he specifies; further he will add to the above-named sum £200 that he burns less coal on a definite run than the competing engine. These gentlemen are both engaged in a healthful rivalry, and both are intent on improvements in locomotives that will benefit themselves and serve the interests of the public at large, and therefore we can honestly wish success both to our townsman and his American competitor in the objects they seek to obtain—to secure a better locomotive and safety in working railway trains. The brake question has come to the front several times lately, and it is evident that there is a wide field for inventors in this direction. Having seen Mr. Eames' brake tried, we can speak favorably of it, but it is capable of further improvement, and a similar remark will apply to the excellent locomotives sent out from Kitson's works. When the Yankee engine reaches this country we shall be on the alert to notice its performances, and English makers, if we mistake not, will not be slow in trying conclusions with it, though whether or not Mr. Eames' challenge will be taken up is quite another matter.

MR. EAMES' LETTER AND CHALLENGE.

To the Editor of the *Leeds Express*.

Sir,—Will you allow me to reply to the remarks of Mr. Kitson, jun., at the dinner of the Leeds Amalgamated Friendly Society, on Monday evening last, reported in your issue of the following day. Mr. Kitson referred to some "tall talk" on the "Yankee locomotive, which was to put English manufacturers out of the field," etc. Now as I am the Yankee who purchased that locomotive, a word from me may not be amiss. The "tall talk" has come from the English press, and from Englishmen who believe that the report of Mr. R. R. Brereton, of Australia, was the *tallest* kind of talk.

The Eames Vacuum Brake Company are bringing this locomotive to England for two reasons. The first and the most important one is that the company desire to own and control for their own use a locomotive having the combined qualities of speed and power, with which to conduct in England and on the Continent an exhaustive series of brake trials, and they believe that those qualities are more perfectly combined in a American locomotive than in one made anywhere else in the world. The other reason was, that they were asked by several English locomotive superintendents to bring a first-class locomotive to this country, and give them an opportunity to test it on their own lines, hauling their own trains, and burning their own coal, and to do this in competition with their own locomotives, which request I was more than glad to accede to.

This locomotive is not coming to England for sale, and will not be offered for sale; and when its mission in Europe is ended it will be returned to America. It is not contemplated to attempt to dispute with English manufacturers their undoubted monopoly of the English type of locomotives, with their rigid wheel base, unequalized wheels, inside cylinders, cranked steam chests, direct valve motion, screw reversing gear, plate frames, heavy crank axles, exposed footplates, and all the peculiar features that go to make up its entirety the English locomotive. Neither is it claimed that American builders have reached the *ne plus ultra* of the art—certainly English builders have not.

As I have heretofore said nothing about this locomotive, I think I may be permitted to add that I will back my opinions on this subject to the extent of £1,000 against any locomotive ever built by Mr. Kitson, or ever built in Leeds, or in fact, any locomotive now running on any railway line in England. If I compete with a single pair of driving wheels, the train to consist of twenty cars of a weight not less than eight tons each, if with a four coupled engine, the train to consist of twelve cars of the same weight as in the other train. I will further add to the above-named sum £200 that I burn less coal in the trip than the competing engine, and, finally, that it shall be done in a continuous run of not less than 180 miles, stopping when necessary for water, or to put down and take up passengers.—I am, etc.

F. W. EAMES.

t6, York Place, Leeds, Oct. 28th, 1880.

JUTE.

One of the most promising new fields for farming in the Southern States is the cultivation of jute. As a fibre it is largely taking the place of flax and hemp in coarse products, and it is also said to be much used in much finer goods, some of the hand-somest carpets being partly of jute. There is no doubt but the demand is to be large and to steadily increase.

A distribution of seeds in the vicinity of St. Louis last spring by Professor Waterhouse, of the Washington University, brought two samples of products. One grown by Dr. Shaw, of Shaw's celebrated botanical garden, had no unusual culture and grew to the height of several feet and produced seed. Another grown by Professor Jenks was six feet and three inches high on October fifth. This specimen had frequent waterings while growing.

Jute is as easily raised as corn, and planted in March or April it may be harvested in June, July and August, after cotton has been laid and at a time when there is no other special call upon the farm force. The labor of cultivation is light, as its growth is so rank as to overshadow everything else in the field, and its yield is simply enormous. There is a very wide field of industry in jute cultivation and one which will eventually be very profitable. The importations of jute during the year ending June 30, 1880, were over \$7,000,000, all of which can easily be produced at home.—*The Rural New Yorker*.

THE Cuban sugar crop this year has been about 545,400 tons, against 680,000 tons last year—a decrease of about twenty per cent.

DURING the great storm of October 16 on the great lakes of the northern United States there were 17 vessels totally lost, involving a loss of \$153,900, and 66 vessels in all were more or less damaged. The total loss on vessels and cargoes was \$500,000. Ninety-three lives were lost.

THE *Pill Mill Gazette* is anxious on the subject of cotton cultivation in India, which, it complains, does not receive the attention at the hands of the government its importance demands. It is noticed that the area under cultivation in 1875 was 11,547,809 acres, from which it has dropped to 8,876,627 acres in 1878. Further, that the output per acre was as high as 111 pounds in 1875—a figure far below the American average—and that in 1878 it had fallen to 65 pounds. This represented a decrease of 18 per cent, which was followed by a decline of 15 per cent. in price. The same authority says there are not wanting those who assert that unless something is done the cultivation of cotton in India will be extinguished.

THE RIO NEWS.

LOCAL NOTES.

—The number of passengers carried on the São Christovão tramway in November was 760,071.

—Experiments with "turfgas" are shortly to be made in Niterohy, under the direction of the minister of agriculture.

—A five years' privilege has been accorded to Vieira Guimarães & Santos for a process of preserving fruits which they claim to have discovered.

—The director of the Imperial Observatory, Dr. Liais, has been granted permission to choose ground on the Santo Antonio hill for a small auxiliary observatory.

—The war department has been experimenting with the Comblain gun and a cartridge improved by the minister of war. The results are said to be highly satisfactory.

—The German Benevolent Society, which recently held a bazaar at the Typographia Nacional, has been presented with 2005 by the Emperor and 2005 by the Empress.

—It is designed to have a general encampment and firing exercise for the military cadets and the regulars on the Copacabana beach at an early day of the present month.

—The chief of police went around to look after his flock on Christmas eve. It also rained, and through this combination of depressing influences there was an unusually quiet Christmas.

—Decree 7,945, of the 18th ult., grants a ten years' privilege to Manoel Vicente Ribeiro Jr. for a machine of his invention entitled the "automatic lottery extractor."

—Miguel Mathews Ferreira claims to have invented a process for preparing native woods and manufacturing fancy objects from them. The government has granted him a five years' privilege.

—The heavy rains which fell in this city on Christmas eve interrupted travel throughout the streets to a large extent. Some of the tramway lines were unable to keep their cars in motion and the theatres were all closed.

—The organization of an Engineers Club in this city was effected on the 24th ult. Many of the leading engineers of the empire took part in its organization and will be influential in its management.

—The number of emigrants, including third-class passengers, arriving at this port in the month of November was 1,436, of which 770 were Italians, 401 were Portuguese and 182 were Germans. The number of departures was 467.

—The minister of agriculture has turned over 40 kilometers of telegraph wire belonging to the extinct astronomical commission and now in São Paulo, to the director of the Imperial Observatory for establishing communication with a projected meteorological station on the Itapeva table land.

—The government has nominated a commission, at the head of which is the president of the board of health, Barão de Lavradio, to experiment with a new disinfecting fluid invented by Augusto Cesar Diogo. Should the experiments result favorably steps will be taken to make use of it in disinfecting the sewers and drains throughout the city.

—The *Gazeta de Notícias* charges that when merchant vessels were recently compelled to withdraw from the wharves to the anchorage by a new order of the board of health, those vessels discharging on government account for the Dom Pedro II railway were permitted to remain alongside the Gamboa wharf. Or, in other words, a regulation which imposed an additional tax upon the mercantile community, was not observed by those who made it.

—With its accustomed peripatetic the board of health has directed that vessels will not be permitted hereafter to discharge their cargoes at the custom house wharves, but must remain at anchor in the bay and discharge with lighters. This measure is, of course, in the interests of the health of the port. It will be a very great additional expense and vexation, and sailors will continue to come ashore, get drunk and get the fever; but that is quite another matter. The illustrious board of health feels the necessity of doing something, and that always means an additional tax upon commerce.

—In connection with its efforts to establish and develop commercial relations with Brazil, through the granting of a subsidy of 100,000\$ to a line of steamers between Halifax and Rio de Janeiro, the Canadian government has just resolved to establish a government agency in Rio de Janeiro which has been entrusted to Mr. P. Lucy Liebermann. Mr. Liebermann is a well-known merchant of this city, through whose unremitting efforts the Brazilian government and legislature was induced to grant a subsidy equal to that already conceded by Canada. It is believed that the steps thus taken and the reduction of customs duties in favor of Brazilian products on the part of Canada will do much toward placing this new commercial enterprise on a good basis.

—The *Diario Oficial* appeared in a new form, with an enlarged page, on the 1st inst.

—Mr. James H. Murray, of Maryland, has been appointed United States vice consul general at this port, *vice* Mr. W. W. Randall, promoted.

—Eight slaves have been freed at Rio Claro under the emancipation act. The sums paid were 5,782\$500 from the emancipation fund, 490\$ from the savings of three slaves and 378\$500 from the donation of a planter—in all 6,651\$, or an average of 831\$375 each.

—The *Journal do Commercio* appeared in a new dress on Christmas day. The change is a decided improvement, the new type having been well chosen and the printing being much improved. The *Journal* has our hearty congratulations.

—The American packet *City of Paris*, Capt. Geo. F. Carpenter, arrived in port on the morning of the 30th ult., bringing 35 passengers and a miscellaneous cargo of 20,000 packages. In the cargo were 4,375 barrels of flour and 18,000 bushels of wheat—the last mentioned being the first shipment of the kind ever made to this port from the United States. It is destined for the new flouring mill recently established in this city. The passage is reported to have been good owing to the uniformly pleasant weather.

—At a meeting of the Botanical Garden Railroad Company, held in New York December 1st, 1880, Col. R. C. Shannon was elected a member of the board of directors to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Guppy. Col. Shannon will return to Brazil by February steamer, when his numerous friends will extend to him personally their congratulations on this additional evidence of the shareholders' hearty endorsement of his management of the business of the company in this city.

—The published mortality reports during the month of December show a considerable increase in the death rate of this city—an increase which is always expected at this season of the year. The total number of deaths from all causes was 801, an average of 25.8 per day, or an annual average of 29 per thousand. The number of deaths from yellow fever was 14, from other fevers 68, and from consumption 141. The health of the port still continues good, there being very little sickness among the shipping and very rare cases of yellow fever. The sanitary state of Niterohy is not so good, there being an unusual number of yellow fever deaths for that city. This prevalence of fever on the other side of the bay is undoubtedly due to sanitary evils which have been too long neglected.

—By executive acts of the 30th ult. Marshal José da Victoria Soares de Andréa was dismissed from the position of inspector of the Estrella powder manufactory, Major Capitão Peregrino Severiano da Cunha from the post of auxiliary engineer on a commission in the quartermaster-general's department, and Dr. Francisco Joaquim Bethencourt da Silva from the direction and fiscalization of public works in the department of empire. These three gentlemen are the commissioners on the Rio São Pedro arbitration whose award has met with the displeasure of the minister of agriculture. The first named was chosen by the government as the fifth arbitrator who should have the casting vote, and the two last were chosen by Messrs. Fannie Bros. & Co.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—The lateness of the season and increasing heat has operated as a powerful stimulus on the working capacity of the Senate, which has finally voted the electoral reform bill and arranged matters for an early retirement from the city. On the 23rd ult. Senator Christiano Ottoni interpellated the government on the Rio São Pedro arbitration, which called out a reply from the minister of agriculture on the 29th that the government would submit to no "extortion." On the 27th the Chamber bill regulating the concession of patents and privileges was received and read. During the discussion of the supplementary credit bill to the department of agriculture, on the 30th ult., Senator João Alfredo called attention to the fact that the credits voted now exceed the budget appropriations by over 30,000,000\$.

—Article VIII of the electoral reform bill was finally brought to a vote in 3rd reading on the 28th instant, and was passed by a bare majority of four. As passed this article confers all the rights of suffrage and representation upon naturalized citizens, non-catholics and freedmen; thus abrogating the disabilities which have been up to this time imposed upon these classes under the imperial constitution. When the Senate amendments shall have been concurred in by the Chamber and the bill shall have received the imperial signature there will be no further legal disabilities upon any citizen because of his birth, creed or previous condition, beyond a six years' residence for naturalized citizens. There was not a full attendance of senators at the time of voting, to which circumstance is probably due the fortunate result. The vote was as follows, liberals in roman and conservatives in italics: affirmative—Senators

Saraiva, Leão Velloso, Dantas, Pelotas, Florencio de Abreu, Paranaquá, Luiz Felipe, Meira de Vasconcellos, Nunes Gonçalves, Barros Barreto, Affonso Celso, Souza Queiroz, Leitão da Cunha, Christiano Ottoni, Corrêa, Teixeira Junior, Diniz, Cruz Machado, Abaeté, Chicorro, and Godey, (21); negative—Senators Uchôa, Ribeiro da Luz, José Bento, Muritiba, Jaguaribe, Bacenly, Cotepepe, Junqueira, Carrão, Faustade Aguiar, Alaroin, Candido Mendes, Fernandes da Cunha, Vieira da Silva, Silveira da Motta, Momanguipe, and Dias de Carvalho, (17). Of the three so-called republicans of the Senate, Christiano Ottoni voted for the article, Silveira da Motta against it, and Lafayette, who would have voted against, was absent. The whole bill was finally passed on the 29th.

—The only session of the Chamber of Deputies since our last issue was held on the 30th ult and the only important item of business then transacted was the passage of the supplementary credit of 143,505\$399 for the minister of empire, to which an amendment was added appropriating 12,800\$ for the extra salaries of the deputies. In view of the faithful work performed, this zeal is peculiarly noteworthy.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The Pará custom house receipts during the first half of December amounted to 219,829\$429.

—The French explorer, Charles Wiener, left Manaus for Iquitos on the 1st ult.

—An epidemic of small pox is raging with great violence at Penha, Rio Grande do Norte.

—São Paulo has a new daily newspaper under the title of *Gazeta de S. Paulo*.

—On New Year's day Dr. John Henry Adams, residing at Sorocaba, São Paulo, gave a banquet to his slaves and then gave freedom to 15 of them.

—The *Provincia*, of São Paulo, says that the Ypiranga lottery will be certainly drawn on the 26th of February.

—The November receipts of the Manaus custom house were 52,253\$077, of which 39,080\$760 were from imports and 11,260\$730 were from exports.

—It is expected that telegraphic communication between Fortaleza, Ceará, and the southern part of the empire will be opened on the 15th inst.

—The receipts of the city treasury of Santos for the quarter ending September 30 were 66,471\$376, and the expenditures 61,269\$168.

—The city council of Barbacena, Minas Geraes, has sent congratulations to Counselor Saraiva on the position taken by the ministry in the emancipation question.

—The provincial budget of Rio de Janeiro provides that a tax of 1,500\$ shall be levied on the registry of every slave introduced from another province, through purchase or transfer of ownership, and 30\$ upon the similar transfer of slaves from one municipality to another.

—A planter's club at S. Carlos, São Paulo, has resolved to petition the government for guarantees of good order and tranquillity for agriculturists, and to make representations to the provincial assembly against the continuance of the interprovincial slave traffic.

—Col. W. M. Roberts arrived at Pernambuco on the 24th ult., after having finished his examination of the port of Maranhão. The next port to be visited is that of Aracaju in the province of Sergipe, to which Col. Roberts expected to go about the 29th ult.

—The provincial budget of Minas Geraes, signed on the 18th ult., estimates the provincial receipts for the fiscal year 1881-82 at 2,705,650\$ and the expenditures at 2,708,923\$050. The amount appropriated for public instruction is 760,340\$. The receipts are raised principally from export taxes of 1 per cent. on coffee, 6 per cent. on stock and their products, and 3 per cent. on manufactures.

—There was a meeting of planters at Barra Mansa on the 23rd ult., in response to a call of the pro-slavery central commission in Rio. There was a large attendance and everything passed off harmoniously. The result of the meeting was the appointment of several parish committees and the adoption of a set of resolutions which provided for the election of parish committees to assist the government in carrying out the law of September 28, 1871; to combat, in the neutral (?) press, the incendiary pleas of the abolitionists, "without imitating their language;" to aid with subscriptions all journals who espouse the cause of agriculture [that's us! our rate is 20\$ per annum!]; to see that every parish is provided with a committee which shall be in communication with the Rio central commission; and to take good care that the *Cinzeiro* is not forgotten in the new arrangement for newspaper subscriptions. Judging from the general circulation of newspapers among planters, our agriculturally sympathetic contemporary is to be heartily congratulated on this spring tide in its affairs "which taken at the flood" may lead on to fortune.

—A slave at S. Francisco, Bahia, recently hung himself to escape further bad treatment.

—The municipality of Pelotas, Rio Grande, will have 28 slaughter houses in operation during the next season.

—Brigadier-general Menna Barreto has taken command of the Platine frontier with his headquarters at Uruguaiana.

—The government has granted an exemption from customs duties to the material for extinction of fires imported from the United States by the city council of Santos.

—A fugitive slave was recently captured and sent to jail in Sorocaba, São Paulo, with an iron collar about his neck weighing a little over three pounds. And still, "slavery is the corner-stone of our civilization!"

—On the 26th ult. a large central establishment for the preparation of coffee was inaugurated at Rezende by Messrs. Monteiro & Raymundo. The mill will be known as the "Engenho Central Cruz das Almas."

—The cogitations of the Catipinas planters' club have resulted in resolutions to petition the ministry for measures favorable to immigration, and to send a representation to the provincial assembly against the continuance of the interprovincial slave traffic.

—Steam navigation on the Rio Grande, Minas Geraes, between the Rio Vermelho and Pimenta, was inaugurated on the 18th ult. The distance between these two places is 30 leagues. The first steamer is called the *Doutor Jorge* and was built in New York.

—A noted criminal named Joaquim Bernardino was captured near Juiz de Fora on the morning of the 25th ult. He fought desperately, and wounded some of his captors before he was taken. The charge upon which he was arrested was the murder of a planter near Guaratinguetá, São Paulo.

—The emancipation commission of São Paulo closed its labors on the 22nd ult. and the names of 14 slaves have been published as those chosen for emancipation under the present distribution of the fund. The quota for the city of São Paulo is 11,109\$878. The number of slaves in that city according to the latest reports is 5,371.

—The provincial budget of Rio de Janeiro estimates the receipts of the provincial treasury in 1881, including deposits, at 4,561,730\$390 and the expenditures at the same amount. The 4 per cent. export tax on coffee is expected to yield 2,422,000\$, and the 3 per cent. export tax on sugar 53,455\$800. The revenue from five provincial lotteries is fixed at 200,000\$.

—There is great enthusiasm in Paraná over an expedition recently made into an unexplored wilderness between the rivers Ivaí and Piquiri. The enterprise was under the direction of a Guarapava planter, Sr. Norberto Mendes Cordeiro, and resulted in the discovery of some fine grazing and agricultural lands and a large tribe of wild Indians, a chief of which spoke Portuguese. The expedition penetrated into the wilderness seven days and then returned for provisions. Great importance is attached to the discoveries made. A second expedition will set out in April when a larger supply of provisions will probably be provided.

—The *Diário*, of Pernambuco, relates that a man named Alexandre, living in the district of Buique, felt himself wounded "in his honor" one day last September because his wife ran away with one Antonio. He pursued the pair and killed them both. A brother of the woman then felt a wound somewhere in the neighborhood of his "honor," and he thereupon poured kalm upon the wound by killing one of Alexandre's brothers. This put the disconsolate husband upon his mettle, and he at once assassinated a brother-in-law. All this occurred within a few days, and for aught that the authorities have done, it may still be going on—providing the two families are large enough to stand these summary deaths upon their resources.

—The latest invention, promising to offer serious competition to the coal gas manufacturers, is one for utilizing water gas, and which has just been patented in France. It is claimed that the difficulty has been taken as much to dissociate the gases forming water as they were worth when separated. However, the London *Echo* states that a Frenchman, M. Paul Aube, at one operation converts iron into steel and produces an illuminating gas. The iron is placed in a retort with charcoal or coke, and being raised to the proper temperature, is supplied with a dose of fatty matter, and subsequently, when steam is introduced, the latter is immediately decomposed, the oxygen uniting with the coke and the hydrogen combining with the vapor of carbon, thus converting the iron into steel, and producing an illuminating gas at one operation. "The cost of the process," says the *Echo*, "is more than covered by the difference in value of iron and steel." This would allow the gaseous product to count as clear profit. But since steel has promised to become cheaper than iron, it looks as if the question of the amount of profit on gas made by this process would have to be redetermined.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet,
the French packet of the 15th, and Royal
Mail packet of the 24th. of the month,

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs,
a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
mercial report and price current of the market, a table of freights
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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 5TH, 1881.

WITH this issue THE RIO NEWS makes its appearance in a new and enlarged form. The generous support and encouragement which we have received in the brief time since this journal passed into our hands, has rendered this step both easy and necessary. The increasing pressure upon our columns, both by commercial and general news, made it evident long since that an enlargement would soon be an urgent necessity, and that improvement we here present to our readers as the best acknowledgment of their hearty support that we can now make. In good time we shall take pleasure in adding other substantial improvements to our commercial department and to extend our facilities for obtaining early and reliable information on all such topics as will be of interest to the business community which we have undertaken to serve. We shall spare no pains in meeting every requirement which a business community can impose upon a representative newspaper, and in this effort we are now assured of the hearty co-operation of all the reliable mercantile houses engaged in the Brazilian trade. Our success thus far has fully demonstrated the fact that an independent English commercial newspaper can be published in this city on its own merits and without any extrinsic aid or influence whatever. That fact being settled, we shall have no hesitation whatever in improving our journal to the fullest extent, as we feel sure that every effort in that direction will meet with the substantial approval of this entire English-speaking community.

ACCORDING to the Rio de Janeiro provincial budget for 1881, which entered into effect on the 1st instant, a new tax of 1,500\$ is imposed upon every slave introduced into this province, the tax to be imposed at the registry of such slaves in accordance with the law of 1871. This tax is a virtual prohibition upon the further introduction of slaves into this province from the other provinces of the empire, and in that sense may be considered as a death-blow to the interprovincial slave traffic as far as the province of Rio de Janeiro is concerned. This act of the provincial government should be received with hearty approval. Although we should have preferred an out-and-out prohibition—an unconditional suppression of this shameful traffic, we are well aware that this tax is sufficiently prohibitory to accomplish the desired results; and that it is probably the nearest approach to a prohibitory act that could have been passed. There is always a great deal of false pride mixed up with all reforms of this character, and it becomes necessary therefore to yield largely to nomenclature and indirect legislation. As long as an act of this character was known under the title of

"abolition," or "prohibition," or "anti-slave traffic," it is clear that nothing could have been accomplished at this time, but place it in the budget and call it a "tax" and it becomes a law without attracting any unusual attention. As the main purpose of the abolitionists is to bring about the overthrow of slavery they surely can not object to these harmless subterfuges, the more so as they are unquestioned steps in the right direction. Now let São Paulo and Minas Geraes enact prohibitory measures of the same character and the final overthrow of slavery will not be far distant.

WE are informed by the president of the "Companhia Cantareira e Esgotos" of São Paulo, Dr. Falcão Filho, that our notice of the late disturbances in that city was based upon wrong information; that there never has been any question between the water-works company and the city council; that the works have been thus far carried out under the eyes and with the approval of the provincial government and the people; that there has never been any complaints as to the manner in which the works have been executed; that the disturbances and damages to the company's property grew out of the malice of one individual who had failed in securing a large indemnification for property of little value, and who therefore collected a number of bad characters to accomplish the destruction of property, as noted by us; that the company has made representations to the provincial government in the case, and is going to proceed against the criminal parties for damages; and that the only statement in our notice of which the company is obliged to confess the truth is that of the apathy of the police who were present at the time. We make these corrections with pleasure, the more so as the whole statement seems to be wrong. It is due to the Companhia Cantareira that it should not be placed in a false position before the government and before the public; and it is also due to the city authorities of São Paulo that they should not be wrongfully accused. It is also due to ourselves to state that our information was drawn from our São Paulo exchanges, and that we are responsible for nothing but the conclusions which we drew from the various published accounts of the disturbance. We esteem the courtesy of Dr. Falcão Filho in correcting our error because we desire to keep our columns as free from misstatements as possible, but had he corrected the local journals as promptly as ourselves we would not have fallen into the error.

ON the 28th ultimo the Senate finally passed Article VIII of the electoral reform bill by a bare majority of four. It must be confessed that there was good reason at one time for the belief that the measure would be defeated in third reading, owing to the narrow majority which it received in second reading and to the absence of several liberal senators who then supported it. By a happy chance, however, there seems to have been a similar indifference among its opponents, so nearly so that the relative voting strength of the two parties remained about the same. Should the Chamber concur in the amendments which have been made to the bill in the Senate,—and of that there can be no doubt—there will be no other opportunity for the senatorial opposition to vote against this just and liberal measure. It may be taken for granted, therefore, that the political disabilities, which have thus far weighed upon the foreign-born citizens and non-catholics have been at last removed, and that all Brazilians, irrespective of birth, religion, or previous condition, now stand on the same political plane. It may be taken as an accomplished fact that there are now no legal political inequalities among the citizens

of Brazil, no political disabilities other than those which apply equally to all classes, races and conditions of society. In this result there is abundant cause for hearty congratulation, not merely on the part of those who have been thus far shut out from the full enjoyment of these privileges, but chiefly on the part of the native Brazilians themselves, upon whom has long rested the stigma of this unworthy intolerance. It may yet be possible for the enemies of this reform to defeat all beneficial results through further legislation, and it may also be possible to defeat them through the "machine" management of parties and the repressive measures which are used with such effect in every province of the empire; but even so, it is something to have gained the right and the privilege of asserting it. We are not so sanguine as to believe that the electoral reform bill, with its two important clauses regarding political equality and district representation, is going to accomplish all the reforms which its advocates have claimed, but as these are two of the channels through which the ultimate reforms must come, their adoption at any time is a matter for public congratulation.

Two of the results of the late arbitration between the government and Messrs. Finnie Bros. & Co., respecting the disappropriation of the latter's property along the Rio São Pedro, has been an ill-advised announcement of the minister of agriculture before the Senate on the 29th ultimo that the government would submit to no "extortions;" and then the summary dismissal of the three offending arbitrators from government positions. The settlement of this question was left to a commission of five experts, two of whom were chosen by Messrs. Finnie Bros. & Co. and three by the government. The government therefore had the casting vote, which was delegated to an old army officer, Marshal Andréa. It is a recognized principle of arbitration that both parties shall submit to it without further question; otherwise the reference of disputed questions to this method of adjustment would be farcical in the highest degree. We have little belief in the grounds upon which the Rio S. Pedro adjustment was made as we believe the basis to be unsound; but as both parties had submitted the question to arbitration there is certainly no honest way of escaping the decision. Had this decision been decided in favor of the two government commissioners, there would have been no alternative for Messrs. Finnie Bros. & Co. but prompt submission, and no one would have emphasized this more than the minister of agriculture himself. The decision, however, was given against the government, and that too by an arbitrator of its own choice; in what respect, therefore, does this last case differ from the first? Upon what grounds does the government charge "extortion" and intimate its purpose to nullify the decision? What just reason is there for this petty sentence of dismissal from government employ imposed upon the three arbitrators, against whom no charge of corruption has been made, and by whom the award seems to have been made with perfect good faith? Can such a parallel be found in any civilized nation of the world? Had the government no intention to abide by the award of the commission, it should never have submitted the case to it; but as the reference was made and the award has been rendered, there is no honest escape from it, except both parties shall agree to reconmit the case. As it is, the minister of agriculture should think twice before he proceeds further in his determination to set aside this decision and to wreak a personal revenge upon those whose opinions do not agree with his own. It should be remembered that a court of arbitration is one of the

highest known and that its decisions have the highest binding force possible, for the simple reason that it is a court in equity and its jurisdiction grows out of the voluntary and reciprocal acts of the parties in question. To refuse submission to its decisions is to subvert one of the highest and best principles of justice.

ON the 30th ultimo the eminent lawyer, Dr. Ferreira Vianna, gave his sixth lecture at the S. José school on the great question of national industries. The learned advocate has undertaken to prove that in a judicious and well-applied system of protection and restriction lies the panacea for all the many industrial and commercial evils which afflict mankind; and that in free exchange and individual liberty we have a veritable Pandora's box filled to the brim with economic evils of all sorts and descriptions. To impress the vital and all-absorbing importance of this question upon the minds of the Brazilian public the eloquent speaker has spared neither time nor pains. He began with the very dawn of creation, and his disquisitions have been made musty with the dust-covered records of an almost forgotten past. The transgression and fall of our unhappy parents, who so haplessly violated the protective laws imposed upon Eden, have been invested with a new and thrilling interest, and will now serve as a terrible warning to those discontented mortals who still grumble at the wise prohibitions of a superior power. And then there was Cain who could not and would not stand successful competition. To escape the disastrous consequences of this competition Cain invented the singularly happy and effective expedient of knocking his competitor on the head—an expedient which has since grown into one of the fundamental laws of the protective school and has been rigorously practiced, both literally and figuratively, down even to the present day. The highly protective policy of Joseph in storing the thistles Egyptian's corn in his own granaries, and then selling it to them at a fair margin when the famine came, also serves a new and useful purpose in this system which is hereafter to hold the destinies of this great empire. Who the Brazilian Joseph is to be, and where the precious corn is to be found, in sufficient quantity for a truly imperial "corner"; the illustrious lecturer prophesied not, but the beneficent example now stands out as a hallowed and unchallenged precedent for the imposition of export restrictions and the supreme right of government to regulate the bread-and-butter affairs of the people. And then, there was the miracle of the wedding feast where Christ transformed water into wine—what better illustration than this can be found to strengthen and encourage a struggling national industry whose wine butts are as innocent of grape juice as were the waterpots at Cana of Galilee? In thus calling up the sacred record in support of the system of protection, an inestimable service has been rendered to the cause of commercial and industrial legislation—a service which comes none too soon in view of the liberal influences which are steadily gaining ground day by day throughout the world. Once make the system sacred, and it is secure; cover it with the dust of antiquity, and it will be revered; enrich it with the precept and example of the fathers, and their degenerate children will fall down and worship it. Thus the eloquent lawyer, well knowing the audience to whom he was speaking, has done skillfully and well. Not only from the sacred record has the precedent been culled in support of the protective system, but the good old fathers of the church, who lived apart from men and therefore knew best how to govern them, and the heathen gods, who had a little

world of their own and run it according to their own sweet wills, and all the brilliant kings and statesmen of the middle ages, who wrote their names with a cross and legislated with the sword, all these have been made to appear on dress parade and to give counsel in favor of protecting Brazilian industries to the bitter death. The Chinese philosophers and statesmen have all spoken most eloquently in favor of the system and counsel the building of a mural boundary line around the whole empire. This, it is believed, will not only shut out the foreign competitor, but will also open a new and promising field for the national engineering industry. Besides that, all the ancient nations whose policy has been that of suppression and physical supremacy have joined in the good work of giving counsel to Brazil through the mediumship of Dr. Ferreira Vianna. They assert most vehemently that the policy of commercial freedom is pernicious in the highest degree, because it leaves the loaves and fishes not to those upon whom governments would wish to bestow them, but to those who reduce the whole thing to the realm of natural laws and then comply with them rigorously. History teaches us, according to this ancient system, that those gain most who are favored most. It is a manifest law of selection; not of natural selection, but that of the purely arbitrary and interested choice of those in power. This eminently wise and politic system, it is urged, is peculiarly adapted to Brazil, and through it alone can come that wonderful development of industry and commerce which is the fond dream of every patriotic statesman. Brazil is a land peculiarly adapted for an inundation of milk and honey, therefore all the channels must be dammed and new sources must be evolved within her limits, irrespective of the cows and the bees. Let there be a new and vigorous crop of legislative fodder, and the native product will spring forth spontaneously, even as the waters of Meribah gushed forth from the living rock at the touch of Moses' rod.

IMMIGRATION.

Fifteen years ago the opening of the Amazon was heralded as the dawn of a new era for Brazil. The great river was to become one of the commercial highways of the world and its bosom was to be flecked with the countless white sails of all nations. The inexhaustible natural wealth of the unknown Amazon valley was to be developed, and toward it the stream of emigration from Europe and the United States was to be turned. The great valley was to become the seat of a new empire of fabulous wealth and power. It was a dazzling dream, but, overdrawn and extravagant as it certainly was, there was sufficient basis for many of the hopes of the future growing out of the act which threw the great river open to the commerce of the world.

The fifteen years which have elapsed have seen the utter failure of all these great plans. There has been some commercial development, but not enough to meet the natural growth of so rich a region. Commercial restrictions and monopolies have practically shut out the mercantile navies of foreign nations, and the same evils have in the same degree repressed the industrial and commercial activity of the people. The great stream of emigration has proved to be but the tiniest rivulet which has long since swallowed up in the sands. The wealth and power of the coming empire have proved to be mere figments of the imagination, and the Brazilian statesman still waits for the chance realization of this fondly-cherished dream.

And yet, the very same natural wealth upon which all these hopes were based,

still remains. The unexplored forests of the Amazon still await the settler's ax, and the deep, fertile soil still remains untilled. The world has not learned that the picture of 1866 was overdrawn and deceptive; on the contrary, more than one explorer since that time has added fresh color to its fading beauties and enlivened it with glowing descriptions such as no other unsettled country of the world ever received. And yet, the shores of this incomparable river remain unpeopled, while a no inconsiderable part of the tide of emigration is flowing by its very door to a neighboring republic.

In view of these facts, it is full time that the Brazilian government should begin to make some honest inquiries into the causes of this stagnation within and distrust without. As an important contribution to the needed solution—and it is an opinion which should more than outweigh the narrow, intolerant discussions which are now heard in the Brazilian Senate from day to day—we append herewith a letter written in 1866 by the late Professor Agassiz to the manager of the Amazon steamship company, and which has, to our knowledge, never before been published. The causes which the eminent scientist then believed to be inimical to immigration still exist, and of their fatal effects we leave the reader to judge for himself.

HIGH SEAS, 29th March, 1866.

Off the Island of Gaviotas.

My dear friend:

At last I find a moment to answer your inquiries regarding foreign immigration into Brazil.

Before entering into such details as I deem necessary for the clear explanation of my views on this subject, allow me to make some reflections upon emigration in general, and to point out certain distinctions, essential, as it seems to me, to a just appreciation of the question.

In this day emigration is not what it was twenty years ago. When the emigrant was generally a political refugee, flying, he and his, from a more or less oppressive civil persecution, what he sought was a safe asylum and protection. His country was still the land where he was born. To-day, emigration is now voluntary, and more deliberate. The emigrant generally leaves his home in order to ameliorate his lot, and to associate himself with the destinies of a new world. What he seeks is a new country offering him advantages superior to those he has hitherto known. To look upon the emigrant as a necessity is to do him an injustice. It is because in the United States the value of the individual man is fully recognised, the tide of emigration under all forms has flowed towards her shores. With this order of things a country which establishes distinctions unfavorable to the new comer, will hope in vain to attract a numerous emigration. In my opinion Brazil would deceive herself as to the future if she indulges the hope of a speedy progress in an active and intelligent emigration, without having previously abolished restrictions which still weigh heavily upon the stranger who comes to establish himself upon her soil. Let no one delude himself in this respect; that which the emigrant seeks is that which is least easily conceded—absolute equality with the inhabitant of older date, and even with the descendants of the oldest race. I would add further that I have observed in Brazil certain administrative customs, principally touching the administration of real estate, and the intervention of authority in the affairs of private individuals, which until modified must remain an invincible obstacle to emigration on a large scale. I allude specially to the delays and formalities attending the entrance into possession or practical occupa-

tion of land, and which in the eyes of a stranger are tantamount to his complete exclusion. The emigrant ought to be able to take possession of the ground between to-day and to-morrow, for rarely has he the means of waiting. True political wisdom should rather stimulate him to establish himself upon any territory not yet occupied, guaranteeing to him a right to any improvement he may make even upon soil which does not yet belong to him.

Another great difficulty arises from the arbitrary manner in which subordinate officers interfere in the affairs of individuals. I do not know how far the Brazilian, born in this country, feels the necessity of the support and counsels, discreet or indiscreet, of the public administration in his private affairs; but I do know positively that in our days the emigrant fears nothing so much as all which may be considered tutelage, still more when this tutelage takes the form of petty tyranny. He generally leaves his own country to escape from this very thing, and will certainly not choose, as the land of his adoption, one where it would pursue him even in his private transactions. The opening of the Amazon will no doubt bring to its borders a number of industrious and enterprising men but a great emigration, such as rapidly augments a population, will never gather here as long as the order of things exists I have observed in the provinces of Pará and Amazonas.

And yet I have pleasure in repeating that whatever may be said to the contrary I know of no country in the world richer, more attractive, more fertile, more salubrious, more fit to be the focus of a numerous population than the magnificent valley of the Amazonas.

LOUIS AGASSIZ.

PROVINCIAL INDEBTEDNESS.

The aggregate public debt of all the provinces of Brazil, according to Deputy Ulysses Vianna, is 38,177,838\$993. This is exclusive of the sum of 11,447,213\$502 which the provinces of Pernambuco, Bahia and São Paulo owe the imperial government for interest payments on the 2 per cent. guarantees granted by those provinces in aid of railway enterprises. The indebtedness of the several provinces, exclusive of this railway debt, is as follows:

Pará.....	1,986,005\$854
Maranhão.....	830,280 825
Piahy.....	191,120 719
Rio Grande do Norte.....	250,768 277
Parahyba.....	886,119 728
Pernambuco.....	4,247,866 002
Alagoas.....	342,626 038
Bahia.....	4,456,316 220
Sergipe.....	811,899 954
Espirito Santo.....	77,000 000
Rio de Janeiro.....	15,646,090 000
São Paulo.....	6,419,337 070
Paraná.....	624,866 539
Santa Catharina.....	33,165 552
Rio Grande do Sul.....	2,411,270 766
Minas Geraes.....	934,000 000
Goyaz.....	78,873 308

The interest varies from 6 to 10 per cent. Pará and pays 8 per cent., Maranhão 6 per cent., Piahy 10 per cent., Espirito Santo 8 per cent., Pernambuco 7 and 8 per cent., Bahia 6 and 7 per cent., and from 7 to 10 per cent. on her floating debt, Rio Grande do Sul 6 and 7 per cent., São Paulo 6½, 7 and 8 per cent., Goyaz 6 and 8 per cent.

As these amounts are based on the provincial debt reports of some time past, it is clear that the aggregate is now somewhat larger than that given by Deputy Ulysses Vianna. Several of the provinces have largely increased their debts within the last two years, and an aggregate of 40,000,000\$, or 52,000,000\$ with the railway interest debts, would not now be too high.

The efforts made by Canadians, during the past year, to extend the exports of Dominion cereals have met with considerable success. The Montreal *Herald* , in reviewing the continental grain trade of Canada, notes that, up to November 4, this year, 996,985 bushels of grain alone were shipped to Antwerp from that port, against 543,563 bushels during the whole season of 1879—an increase of nearly 100 per cent. The total quantity of grain shipped to all continental ports this year amounts to 1,321,231 bushels, against 697,479 bushels in 1879.

From the *Gazeta de Porto Alegre*, Dec. 17.

GAMBLING.

A people which gives itself up with frenzy to the vice of gambling is always decadent, and the epochs of the greatest corruption, those which lead to great social cataclysms, have always been characterized by gambling. It is sufficient to recall the epoch of demoralization which preceded the French revolution; public lotteries and the gambling exchange, invented by Law, had attained incredible proportions, absorbing fortunes and undermining all society.

It was undoubtedly the knowledge of this fact that led the legislators of most countries to prohibit private gambling at hazard and to render public gambling as difficult as possible. Only decaying nations, as the Spain of the Bourbons, or princes without honor or conscience as the lord of Monaco, have been able to authorize public gambling on a large scale. Every well-intentioned government tries its utmost to implant habits of economy in the public mind, and to stifle every inclination toward waste.

Unhappily the Brazilian government thinks otherwise, because it entices the people, with its great and small lotteries, into a gambling truly frenzied. In effect, it is now selling, besides the tickets of the small lotteries, 500,000 of the great lottery of S. Paulo, and another 500,000 of the great lottery of the capital. To excite the covetousness and to waste the labor of the people, it offers premiums of 1,000 contos (equal to the largest of Spain), and there is now not a poor nor a rich man in Brazil who does not invest money in lottery tickets. And yet—what a sad employment is here given to the gold which is the fruit of honest, persevering labor!

The wretched laborer deprives himself of the necessities of life to buy tickets; the slave, even, takes the fruits of his labor to the ticket broker; the poor girl sews day and night to obtain a São Paulo ticket; and we would not hesitate to wager that it is impossible to traverse the entire length of any one of our streets without hearing conversation about the tickets of S. Paulo, of Rio de Janeiro, etc.

The brokers sell the tickets, of an original price of 10\$, for 14\$, 15\$, and more (in Pelotas they have already been sold for 20\$), and enrich themselves at the expense of the people in a speculation which we will not undertake to qualify.

Our province has invested hundreds of contos in the São Paulo lottery, and the same thing will happen with that of Rio de Janeiro. The allotment of 1,000 contos is excessively powerful, no one resists the sweet hope of becoming thrice a millionaire with one small ticket; everybody buys and gives with good will 50 per cent. profit to the broker, if the tickets can only be procured. It is a real mania that possesses the people; lotteries are more believed in than any other useful thing. And yet, it is gambling in its worst form, for it is the State which receives the on-lookers' portion.

Like the prince of Monaco, who lives upon the revenue of the celebrated bank of Monsieur Blanc, our government imposes a new and most oppressive tribute upon the people through the lotteries (principally the large ones), and that too by the most immoral system possible.

Had the government the good sense and conscience that it should have, instead of authorizing lotteries it would cause the establishment of savings banks in every city and village where there exists to-day a lottery ticket broker. The savings bank promotes habits of sobriety and economy in the people, makes families happy, and elevates society. This has been proved by the bank established here, which has already accumulated thousands of contos from the small economies of the classes less favored by fortune.

When not turned aside from their natural course, our people are sober and economical. For this reason they have taken their economies to the savings bank, which is rendering important services. To-day, however, the people are taking their economies out of this model establishment for the purpose of employing them in—lottery tickets!

It is sad, but it is true!

If the government wished to do its duty it would extend the establishment of savings banks, creating them in every village and city. It proceeds, however, in the very opposite way. It invites the people to gamble, gives its supreme sanction, excites vice, and demoralizes society.

What singular blindness!

These are reflections for which there was reason in other times when only small lotteries were thought of; to-day, however, that it has become an actual tax of millions of tickets upon the country, alluring the people with premiums of a thousand contos, it is without comparison a very grave case and warrants the severest censures. A proceeding of this character is unworthy a civilized country.

Such is our opinion, which we give without reserve, because we believe that an upright press should utter a solemn protest against this abuse which threatens the very economic existence of Brazilian society.

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